



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

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PENALIZE 110 WILD DUCK SELLERS IN SMASHING TRISTATE BOOTLEG RING

In a quick dragnet action that took wild duck bootleggers in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi unawares, 110 sellers of migratory waterfowl were recently brought into State and Federal courts and received an aggregate of more than \$4,500 in fines and 280 days in jail, the Bureau of Biological Survey reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today. The cases were the result of almost 8 months of intensive undercover investigations by Biological Survey game management agents and State game officers of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi in cooperation with the Tri-States Game and Fish Association.

Twenty-three of the violators were tried in Federal courts, 14 in Tennessee receiving fines aggregating \$1,075 and 9 in Arkansas receiving fines aggregating \$350 and jail sentences totaling 280 days. Cases brought to State courts included 40 bootleggers in Tennessee who received an aggregate of \$1,656.25 in fines; 9 in Arkansas, fined \$441.50; and 38 in Mississippi, fined \$970.70.

Stinging Rebuke from Bench

In Tennessee, Biological Survey and State agents apprehended a complete ring of wildfowl dealers, from hunters and sellers to commission merchants who received 10 percent for all sales made through them.

While most of the bootleggers handled wild ducks, others also sold bobwhite quails, squirrels, red foxes, and other game. Agents alleged that in one case under investigation, the bootlegger kept his ducks in the home of a constable who allegedly boasted that "the boys" were under his protection.

Judge John D. Martin tried 14 cases in Federal court at Jackson, Tennessee, and delivered a stinging rebuke from the bench. He sentenced the following, all from Greenfield, Tennessee, for the sale and possession of wild ducks:

Hulon McKenney and Leon Barner, described as two of the ringleaders of the Tennessee bootleggers, \$100 each; Talmadge Jackson, said to be one of the biggest operators in the section, \$100; W. B. (Brown) Simmons, \$100; Gilbert Galey, \$100; Elbert Berryhill, \$100; Howard McKenney, \$100; Leon Cates, \$100; Aaron Swindle, \$100; William (Bill) Simmons, \$50; Chester Swindle, \$50; Clay Baker, \$25; Paul McKenney, \$25; and Buck Jones, \$25.

Judge Scores Violators

In Federal court at Jonesboro, Arkansas, Judge Charles Trimble warned all violators of Federal hunting regulations that he was going to give more severe fines for cases appearing in his court in the future. In sentencing bootleggers brought into court in the Tristate roundup, he declared that if violators continue at the present rate, there will soon be no game left. He added that Federal game laws are designed for the good of the entire population.

Judge Trimble sentenced the following bootleggers from Harrisberg Corner, Arkansas, for selling and possessing wild ducks: George Hardin, \$100 and 60 days in jail; Frank Canady, \$100 and 60 days in jail; Clarence Hardin, 30 days in jail; and Louis Bartholomew, who pleaded guilty, dismissed because he had served 6 weeks in jail awaiting trial. Three bootleggers from Hughes, Arkansas, received the following sentences: Joe McGowan, 30 days in jail; Mose Grason, \$50; Eddie Carter, \$50; and Sam Knight, \$50.

Also sentenced by Judge Trimble for possessing and selling wildfowl were Louis Manlove, of Stuttgart, Arkansas, 30 days in jail, and W. A. Kirkpatrick, of Wilson, who after pleading guilty was dismissed because he had served 26 days in jail awaiting trial.

At the same session of court, Judge Trimble fined Woodrow Hutton, of Manila, \$25 for violating three Federal hunting regulations: hunting before 7 a.m., hunting with an unplugged shotgun, and hunting without a migratory bird hunting stamp. Similar charges filed against Edward Reynolds and Murl Jolliff, also of Manila, resulted in fines of \$25 each. B. L. Martin, of West Memphis, was fined \$10 for hunting after 4 p.m.